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JSC Places Working Group: 2015
Report to the EURIG Members Meeting, 14 April 2015

Chair of the Working Group

• Gordon Dunsire

Membership

• Christian Aliverti (Head of the Section of Bibliographic Access, Swiss National Library NL)
• Gordon Dunsire (JSC)
• John Hostage (Senior Continuing Resources Cataloger, Harvard Law School Library)
• Kate James (Cooperative Cataloging Program Specialist, Library of Congress)
• Kevin M. Randall (Principal Serials Cataloger, Northwestern University Library)
• Esther Scheven (Specialist for Authority Control and Place Names, DNB)

Robert Rendall (Chair 2014, Columbia University Libraries), Richard Moore (British Library) and Adolfo R. Tarango (UC San Diego) stepped down.

Tasks (6JSC/Chair/12/2015, 27 February 2015)

1. Review the treatment of place as an entity and attributes of other entities in RDA and develop proposals for improving relevant aspects of RDA, including machine-actionability.
2. Liaise with the JSC Technical Working Group on issues of element analysis, linked data modelling and categorization relevant to places.
3. Liaise with the JSC Jurisdiction Task Group on the treatment of jurisdiction as place.
4. Review RDA instructions for places in an international context and develop proposals for improvement.
5. Make recommendations for the development of RDA Chapter 27 (Related places) and Appendix L (Relationship designators: Relationships between concepts, objects, events, and places).

Current discussion in the Places WG (conference call, 26 March 2015)

The entity Place will not be retained as a FRBR Group 3 entity in the consolidated FRBR/FRAD/ FRSAD model. It will be added as a new entity that is not confined to a subject relationship with the entity Work. The JSC advises the Places WG to take this into account in its activities. In particular the WG focuses on how Place might be presented in RDA as an entity, what attributes or elements should be assigned to the entity, and what relationships are required between Place and other RDA entities. The WG focuses its efforts on developing new content rather than rewriting existing RDA text. The WG prepares a discussion paper, by August 2015.

Further Information

http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/6JSC-Chair-12.pdf
http://www.rda-jsc.org/docs/6JSC-Chair-12-2015.pdf

EURIG and JSC Places Working Group

The Places WG's schedule is tight. Consultations with all EURIG members are not practicable. As a librarian from a German speaking country I continue to cooperate closely with Esther Scheven from the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek. But, I am open to all suggestions of EURIG members. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Appendix

2014 report of the JSC Places Working Group, by Robert J. Rendall, Chair
The JSC Places Working Group was formed in February 2014 and charged with assisting the JSC in developing the treatment of places in RDA. Several earlier approved and unapproved RDA revision proposals dealing with places were referred to it for consideration.
In March, the Working Group began its work with discussion of general issues on a wiki hosted at the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek. At the same time, one member also contributed a draft discussion document showing how RDA Chapter 11 might be modified to accommodate all the instructions currently in Chapter 16.
After further discussion, a second draft document was produced in early June illustrating how some of the changes to the instructions for places that the Working Group was contemplating could be incorporated into a revised version of the existing Chapter 16 instead.
In late June, one member of the Working Group provided the group with a new outline for a potential discussion paper providing extensive background information, exploring broader questions, and outlining advantages and disadvantages of multiple possible approaches to some of the issues the Working Group has discussed while indicating which option the group preferred and seeking further guidance from the JSC.
The other Working Group members welcomed the idea of a broader discussion paper, but other commitments and summer vacation schedules meant that very little further discussion took place immediately. Under the circumstances, the Chair determined in mid-July that the Working Group would not attempt to finalize any submission to the JSC by the August 4 deadline for the November 2014 meeting.
Subsequent exchanges suggest that the Working Group may agree to submit both a version of the draft of Chapter 16, as a preliminary "straw-man" proposal, along with a version of the proposed discussion paper to provide further background and discussion of issues not yet addressed in the chapter draft. Work towards this end will continue in the fall, and the group plans to solicit external feedback on the results before finalizing any formal submission.
Challenges facing the Working Group include the very broad and general nature of its charge, uncertainty about how higher-level decisions about the overall structure of RDA may affect its work, and competing commitments which allow some members to contribute only sporadically to the group's discussions.

Submitted by: Robert J. Rendall, Chair, JSC Places Working Group Date: 3 October 2014